



Faroe Islands to introduce trio featuring indigenous birds



The rich birdlife of the Faroe Islands is introduced with this trio of stamps due from the northern country on Sept. 29. The featured birds are the common snipe, oyster catcher (national bird of the Faroes), and the whimbrel.

The Faroe Islands will introduce a series of stamps featuring birds that are indigenous to the northern lands, advises the Faroese Postal Service, Philatelic Office, DK-3800 Torshavn, Faroe Islands.

Due to be released on Sept. 29 are three values printed in a combination of photogravure and steel gravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd. of England. Printed in four colors, the designs are taken from photographs by Stan Scott, and the stamps will be issued in panes of 20 each.

The 70-ore value features the common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago laerocensis*), while the 1800 denomination depicts the oyster catcher (*Haematopus ostraegeus malacopnaga*) and the 2500 emission reflects the whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*).

The common snipe, a Faroese subspecies, lays its eggs in the lush grass by ditches and in moors in May-June. The breeding period is 19-20 days. The nestlings are fledged when they are three to four weeks old.

A great number of the common snipes live in the Faroe Islands the year around, but part of them leave for the British Isles in October to return to the Faroes the following April.

The oyster catcher is the Faroese national bird — a symbol of the people's self-dependence and belief in the future. March 12 is a Faroese national day in honor of the oyster catcher, the messenger of spring.

The oyster catcher lays three eggs and breeds for 26 days. The nestlings are fledged when approximately five weeks old. The oyster catcher leaves the Faroe Islands at the end of September to winter over in the British Isles.

The whimbrel arrives in the Faroes in April. It lays its four eggs in late May or early June. The breeding period is approximately 25 days. The nestlings are fledged when they are four weeks old.

With the approach of the end of August the whimbrel departs for Africa, Arabia and southern Asia to spend the winter.

A special envelope is also being prepared in connection with

Stanley Gibbons purchases Charles Nissen stamp firm

The stamp firm of Charles Nissen and Co., 65 Victoria St., London SW1, England, has been purchased by Stanley Gibbons International Ltd. for £861,000, according to a Gibbons' spokesman.

The Nissen firm was founded by Charles Nissen, who is remembered for his pioneering research into the plating of the Great Britain Penny Black and for his discovery of the Stock Exchange 1/- forgery.

Gibbons acquired the business from the founder's son, Harry Nissen, who, due to ill health, was unable to continue the stamp business on a regular basis.

Howard O. Fraser, deputy chairman and managing director of Stanley Gibbons, commented, "This is the most important stamp purchase Gibbons has ever made. The acquisition of this stock will enable us to supply a large number of collectors with stamps they have been wanting for years."

"A great many rarities will now be available to collectors for the first time," Fraser added.

Charles Nissen and Co. is one of two stamp companies (Gibbons being the other) holding the royal warrant of appointment to the queen. A close friendship has existed between the two companies since the beginning of the century, according to the spokesman.

Charles Nissen is remembered as a "maggie dealer" because of the stock he built up during his lifetime, the spokesman noted.

He began dealing in stamps in 1893 (the year Gibbons established their offices at 391 Strand, London) at the age of 14, when he bought a parcel of old letters written by famous people and sold them to their relatives for £1 each.

One of the first persons to buy these letters was Lord Rothschild, according to the spokesman.

In 1894, Nissen entered into partnership with Alfred Riley (who later became secretary of Charles Nissen and Co. Ltd.) in offices in High Holborn.

From the outset, Nissen's preference was for the issues of Great Britain, noted the spokesman. During his first year of business he became one of the first to be attracted to British stamps used abroad, and his researches led to such stamps being listed in Gibbons' catalog, according to the spokesman.

Nissen was also a close friend of philatelist Fred J. Melville, the spokesman noted.

In 1898, Nissen purchased a large number of old telegraph forms from a wastepaper merchant, most of which bore 1/- stamps used about 1872-73.

(Please turn to page 3)

Talking Pictures design features sound projector

By Franklin Bruns
Washington Correspondent

The United States Postal Service's Postal Bulletin has come up with a scoop. The Aug. 25 issue illustrates the forthcoming 13-cent Talking Pictures golden jubilee commemorative — to the dismay of some postal people, and the relief of others.

Blumberg resigns top ASDA position

Charles S. Blumberg, executive director of the American Stamp Dealers' Association, tendered his resignation as of Aug. 19, according to ASDA president, Martin L. Apfelbaum.

The ASDA Board of Direc-

Those dismayed had reason to be. Negotiations were under way which hopefully would have had the Talking Pictures stamp design unveiled on prime time national television around the middle of September. What will happen now is a moot question.

The relief emanated from other postal people who were

involved in the new edition of USPS' "Stamps and Stories" book, which was to be released Sept. 1. The Talking Pictures design was in the new edition, so the decision was to get the information out to the postal people first.

In any event, it is now established that the Talking Pictures commemorative will feature a sound projector of undetermined vintage. The commemorative inscription will appear on a curvy banner-like strip of white film.

Walter Einsel's design is somewhat similar to the one he did for Sound Recording earlier this year (March 23), and for the Progress in Electronics quartet of 1973.

Printing will be in yellow, pink, olive and black in panes

Jersey to celebrate college anniversary

Jersey celebrates the 125th anniversary of its Victoria College for Boys with a foursome of stamps to debut on Sept. 29, advises the Philatelic Service of the Jersey Post Office, Box 304, Jersey, Channel Islands.

The stamps and accompanying presentation pack and first day cover were designed by R. Granger Barrett. The stamps are printed in multicolor offset lithography by The House of Questa in England in panes of 50 each.

The original proposal to en-

dow a college on Jersey can be traced as far back as 1596. Later, Sir Walter Raleigh gave his support while governor of the island, and further attempts to obtain island approval and funds were recorded in 1669.

Activity was renewed with the popular desire for a suitable dignified memorial to Queen Victoria's state visit to Jersey in September 1845.

The college developed into a public school of a high order, and the impressive original building retains the grandeur

acclaimed on opening day.

Additions over the years have included a separate house for boarders, a preparatory school, more classrooms, a gymnasium, lecture hall, library, and one of the finest science blocks in the British Isles, adds the Jersey postal administration.

The 7-pence stamp depicts the arrival of Queen Victoria with Prince Albert in 1846, stepping ashore on the new arm of St. Helier Harbour which she had gone to open and which bears her name, Victoria Pier.

As the tide was very low, the royal yacht remained in St. Aubin's Bay, and one of the paddle-driven escorts and a royal barge were needed to complete the landing on Jersey.

The 10½p emission shows how the college looked at the time of its completion. At the official opening on Sept. 29, 1852, the distinctive pale gray Jersey granite of the new building was set off by the uniforms of the Jersey Militia regiments.

The 11p value reproduces the bronze statue of Sir Galahad, remembered by all who have passed through the college since 1924. The statue — the work of Alfred Turner — sym-



Which bicycle came in first questionable

(Editor's note: James E. Starrs is a professor of law and forensic sciences at George Washington University.)

By James E. Starrs
George Washington University
Washington, D.C. 20052

Tracing the history of a stamp issued long ago can be a frustrating and, at the same time, an enervating experience.

For some time, I have been delving into the background of the issuance of what I feel confidently is the first stamp ever issued depicting and praising the bicycle. I refer to the Cape of Good Hope issue of April 9, 1900 (Scott 178).

The stamp is a 1-pence blue which pictures a bicyclist, whose name is given as Sgt. Maj. Goodyear, and which bears the inscription "Siege of Mafeking (V.R.)" in the upper half.

Mafeking was a town in the British Bechuanaland division of the Cape of Good Hope. Mafeking played an important role in the Anglo-Boer War of 1899, when the Boers placed it under a continuous and trying siege which the British defenders, under the command of Col. Robert S.S. Baden-Powell (the legendary founder of the Boy Scouts), stoutly repulsed for 217 days from Oct. 12, 1899, until May 17, 1900, when it was relieved by a British column



Sgt. Maj. Goodyear of the Mafeking Cadet Corps, subject of a 1900 Cape of Good Hope stamp, is shown in this sketch from "Sketches in Mafeking and East Africa," by Col. Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, defender of Mafeking during its siege and founder of the Boy Scouts.

under Cols. Mahon and Plumer.

So much for basic history. But who was Sgt. Maj. Goodyear and why was he commemorated by this stamp which portrays him astride a bicycle? Baden-Powell, himself pictured on Cape of Good Hope 179, in his "Sketches in Mafeking and East Africa," answers the first puzzle.

Sgt. Maj. Goodyear was the 13-year-old chief of the Cadet Corps at Mafeking. The Cadet Corps had been organized during the siege of Mafeking to relieve all able-bodied men for the work of the defense of the encampment. As Baden-Powell put it, they were "a very smart, useful, and plucky lot of boys."

The accompanying illustration

Again, Baden-Powell intimates the answer. In his "Sketches," he refers to a complaint he received from an unnamed British postal authority, subsequent to the Mafeking siege, which criticized his unauthorized issuance of stamps during the Mafeking siege.

He replies, with understandable pique, that his stamps served the very estimable and necessary purpose of defraying the Mafeking compound, and also of enabling letters to be taken through the Boer lines to the outside world.

Somewhat ruefully, he states: "That these (stamps) should have become of value to collectors in spite of official objection I did not foresee: if I had, I should have kept some myself." (Cape of Good Hope 178 is now valued by Scott at \$350 mint.)

Since it is known that the Mafeking defenders issued their own currency on blue paper, and that the Sgt. Maj. Goodyear stamp was printed on blue paper, one can deduce that the Sgt. Maj. Goodyear



Official or not, the 1900 Cape of Good Hope issue depicting a bicycle messenger is probably the first stamp ever to depict a bicycle.

stamp was issued from within Mafeking during the siege for a very pragmatic purpose — to defray postal expenses — and that it depicts a bicyclist since that was the mode of transportation used by the boy couriers.

If this is all true (and much of it is admittedly both guess and gamble), then the Sgt. Maj. Goodyear stamp is an unofficial issue. Thus, it is not the first official postal emission to convey a bicycle motif.

That honor would then pass to the U.S. issue of Dec. 9, 1902 (E6), which, strangely, was issued to commemorate the same function that the bicycle served in the assault on Mafek-



The U.S. 1902 special delivery stamp may or may not be the first official stamp ever issued depicting a bicycle.

ing — the rapid delivery of the mail.

Recognizing that much of what I have said is based on a pyramiding of speculation on surmise, knowledgeable readers may contact me as to the accuracy or error of my conclusions.

Romano House Gallery plans Hirsch display

The collection of early stamps and postal history of the Danubian Principalities (later to become Romania) formed by Dr. Paul Hirsch of Surbiton will be displayed in Stanley Gibbons' Romano House Gallery, 399 Strand, London WC2, England, from Oct. 3 through 31.

According to a Gibbons' report, Dr. Hirsch will cover this period to 1872, with particular emphasis on the indigenous postmarks on prephil-

elic and stampless covers and on the plating and postal history of the lithographed issues.

A collector since he was a young boy, Dr. Hirsch began to specialize in early Romania in the 1960s. Dr. Hirsch has won medals in British national exhibitions and recently received a vermeil medal at AMPHILEX 77.

Further information is available from Stanley Gibbons International Ltd., 391 Strand, London WC2R 0LX, England.

Chapter releases launch covers

Nuclear Ships Chapter No. 61 of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society issued cacheted covers marking the first launching of the USS Indianapolis (SSN-697) and the keel laying of the USS Phoenix (SSN-702).

The Indianapolis cover is priced at 35 cents and the Phoenix cover is 40¢. Orders, including a No. 10 self-addressed, stamped envelope, should be sent to Kenneth Bieda, 1137 Charlene Lane, Schaumburg, Ill. 60193.

El Paso program

"United States Postmaster Provisionals," an audio-visual slide presentation from the Philatelic Foundation, will be shown at the El Paso Philatelic Society meeting, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m., Mutual Savings Association, 10400 Montwood and Yarrow, El Paso, Tex.

tion is taken from page 63 of Baden-Powell's "Sketches," which depicts one of the cadets on a bicycle, apparently in pursuit of his courier-like chores, with Sgt. Maj. Goodyear standing in the foreground.

But the solution of one mystery merely awakens another.

According to Scott's catalog, the Sgt. Maj. Goodyear stamp was issued on April 9, 1900, while the siege of Mafeking did not end until May 17, 1900, when such rejoicing occurred in the streets of London and elsewhere that a new word was coined — "mafficking" — to describe the exuberant behavior of crowds on occasions of particularly nationalistic moment. How and why was this stamp issued when the siege was yet under way?

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552	1.40	561	11.00	619	1.50	657	6.00
553	2.00	562	8.50	620	.75	658	4.50
554	1.00	563	7.50	621	.95	659	14.00
555	10.00	564	17.00	622	2.00	660	40.00
556	9.00	565	18.00	623	1.50	661	175.00
557	9.00	566	45.00	624	62.50	662	4.00
558	25.00	567	8.00	625	6.00	663	4.50
559	10.00	568	14.00	626	4.75	664	9.00
560	1.25	569	1.50	627	11.00	665	14.00
561	8.00	570	2.00	628	14.00	666	21.00
562	10.00	571	1.50	629	13.00	667	18.50
563	2.85	572	10.00	630	130.00	668	65.00
564	1.00	573	10.00	631	20.00	669	15.00
565	1.00	574	8.50	632	11.00	670	1.25
566	20.00	575	15.00	633	15.00	671	1.50
567	15.00	576	14.00	634	14.00	672	6.75
568	3.00	577	15.00	635	32.00	673	.75
569	2.00	578	20.00	636	18.00	674	.99
570a Booklet	15.00	579	55.00	637	8.00	675	6.00
571	65.00	580	50.00	638	6.00	676	35.00
572	10.00	581	75.00	639	40.00	677	32.00
573	10.00	582	72.00	640	30.00	678	13.14
574	9.00	583	30.00	641	3.25	679	2.00
575	7.00	584	72.00	642	2.00	680	9.50
576	17.00	585	80.00	643	9.00	681	3.25
577	34.00	586	2.25	644	4.50	682	1.50
578-586	9.50	587	3.00	645	3.50	683	1.50
589A	110.00	588	2.50	646	3.50	684	7.00
600 Low Ph.	35.00	589	7.25	647	15.00	685	14.00
614	3.00	590	205.00	648	8.50	686	67.50
615	5.00	591	300.00	649	30.00	687	35.00
616	25.00	592	800.00	650	9.50	688	26.00
617	5.00	593	3.25	651	19.50	689	26.00
618	5.00	594	1.00	652	24.50	690	26.00
619	24.00	595	79.00	653	15.00	691	26.00
620	3.65	596	79.00	654	18.00	692	825.00
621	18.00	597	44.00	655	10.00	693	5.00
622	2.50	598	350.00	656	90.00	694	40.00
623	5.25	599	35.00	657	12.50	695	78.00
624	1.80	600	75.00	658	24.00	696	34.00
625	325.00	601	75.00	659	88.00	697	80.00
626	1.00	602	150.00	660	1.25	698	1.00
627	200.00	603	6.50	661	1.50	699	1.00
628-62	8.50	604	5.00	662	4.50	700	2.00
629	3.00	605	1.85	663	5.00	701	1.00
630	9.00	606	6.00	664	6.00	702	2.00
631	15.00	607	.75	665	7.50	703	5.00
632	1.50	608	.75	666	8.00	704	6.50
633	2.00	609	.75	667	8.00	705	6.50

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133-33	2.75	985-96	1.00	818	1.25	714	.30
140-42	4.75	987	2.50	821	1.25	715-16	4.35
143-49	3.25	989-93	42.00	822	1.25	717	.75
178-87	4.25	994	10.85	823	.75	718-19	.50
192	.70	995	125.00	824	.75	720	.30
222-29	7.50	999	2.75				
325-41	2.50	999	4.35				
342-40	4.75	999	6.35				
349-50	32.00	999	2.50				
358-64	18.25	999-97	27.50				
368-67	2.75	999	3.50				
369-69	3.00	999	2.00				
369-69	3.00	999	2.10				
370-74	5.00	999-96	14.50	825	.75	817-18	60.00
375-77	5.00	999	3.25	826-28	5.85	820-25	5.85
376-78	22.00	999	4.25	829-33	13.50	830-33	13.50
381-81	30.00	999	3.00	834	1.85	835	7.00
382-84	2.00	999	.50	836	1.25	837-42	5.75
385-88	20.00	999-99	10.00	837-38	16.75	838-43	10.75
389-94	1.85	999-99	27.50	839	.75	839-44	11.00
390-94	24.50	999-99	27.50	840-41	3.25		
391-94	27.50	999	4.25	841-42	3.25		
392-94	24.50	999	4.25	842-43	3.25		
393-94	24.50	999	4.25	843-44	3.25		
394-94	24.50	999	4.25	844-45	3.25		
395-94	24.50	999	4.25	845-46	3.25		
396-94	24.50	999	4.25	846-47	3.25		
397-94	24.50	999	4.25	847-48	3.25		
398-94	24.50	999	4.25	848-49	3.25		
399-94	24.50	999	4.25	849-50	3.25		
400-94	24.50	999	4.25	850-51	3.25		
401-94	24.50	999	4.25	851-52	3.25		
402-94	24.50	999	4.25	852-53	3.25		
403-94	24.50	999	4.25	853-54	3.25		
404-94	24.50	999	4.25	854-55	3.25		
405-94	24.50	999	4.25	855-56	3.25		
406-94	24.50	999	4.25	856-57	3.25		
407-94	24.50	999	4.25	857-58	3.25		
408-94	24.50	999	4.25	858-59	3.25		
409-94	24.50	999	4.25	859-60	3.25		
410-94	24.50	999	4.25	860-61	3.25		
411-94	24.50	999	4.25	861-62	3.25		
412-94	24.50	999	4.25	862-63	3.25		
413-94	24.50	999	4.25	863-64	3.25		
414-94	24.50	999	4.25	864-65	3.25		
415-94	24.50	999	4.25	865-66	3.25		
416-94	24.50	999	4.25	866-67	3.25		
417-94	24.50	999	4.25	867-68	3.25		
418-94	24.50	999	4.25	868-69	3.25		
419-94	24.50	999	4.25	869-70	3.25		
420-94	24.50	999	4.25	870-71	3.25		
421-94	24.50	999	4.25	871-72	3.25		
422-94	24.50	999	4.25	872-73	3.25		
423-94	24.50	999	4.25	873-74	3.25		
424-94	24.50	999	4.25	874-75	3.25		
425-94	24.50	999	4.25	875-76	3.25		
426-94	24.50	999	4.25	876-77	3.25		
427-94	24.50	999	4.25	877-78	3.25		
428-94	24.50</						